

## Message Text

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20

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-14

NSC-07 DODE-00 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W  
----- 077798

R 061550Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5736

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TS

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTPONEMENT OF  
BOURGUIBA'S CHINA TRIP LINKED TO NOUIRA'S  
"CONVALESCENCE IN EUROPE"

REF: TUNIS 3458

1. AS ANTICIPATED, MOFA LATE JUNE 5 ISSUED BRIEF  
COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S TRIP  
TO CHINA, IRAN, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY SCHEDULED FOR  
JUNE 6-31 HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE.

2. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CARRIED IN ALL LOCAL DAILIES  
WITH TUNISIAN PRESS SERVICE COMMENTARY TAHT "AT MOFA  
THIS POSTPONEMENT IS EXPLAINED BY THE STATE OF HEALTH  
OF PRI MIN HEDI NOUIRA WHO HAS HAD TO INTERRUPT HIS  
ACTIVITIES SINCE JUNE 2 ON THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION  
OF HIS DOCTORS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE WEEKS' ABSOLUTE  
REST." COMMENTARY CITES PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUE ON NOUIRA'S  
HEALTH AND ADDS, THAT NOUIRA " BEING ALREADY IN EUROPE  
FOR A PERIOD OF CONVALESCENCE" COULD NOT SERVE AS  
ACTING CHIEF OF STATE DURING PERIOD ENVISAGED FOR TRIP,  
SO VISIT HAD TO BE CANCELLED.

3. TUNISIAN MINISTER, WHO WELL-INFORMED, TOLD GOOD  
EMBASSY SOURCE JUNE 5 THAT NOUIRA IS IN PARIS.

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4. COMMENT: GOT HAS THUS DIRECTLY AND PUBLICLY LINKED

POSTPONEMENT OF CHINESE TRIP WITH NOUIRA'S REPORTED  
ILLNESS. SINCE THIS ALREADY FAIRLY WELL KNOWN IN TUNIS  
(TUNIS 3370), WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SPECULATION BY  
THOSE WHO HAVE DISCOUNTED ILLNESS AS REASON FOR POST-  
PONING TRIP, WILL CONTINUE. NOUIRA MAY WELL BE IN PARIS  
FOR MORE THAN JUST ABSOLUTE REST, BUT IF SO WE HAVE NO  
REAL EVIDENCE AS YET THAT THIS IS CASE. HAVE NO  
EXPLANATION FOR WHY INDIA WAS NOT INCLUDED IN ANNOUNCE-  
MENT BUT AS REPORTED TUNIS 3380 VISIT THERE IS ALSO  
POSTPONED.  
TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, MEDICAL CARE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, TS, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB), (NOUIRA, HEDI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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